NPS form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) VLR-8/18/93 NRHP-10/29/93

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, arctituctural classification, materials, and areas of significance, cuter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name	
other names/site number _	VDHR File No. 81-39, Pioneer Estate
2. Location	
city or town Cornwall	mile SE of jct. with US 11 not for publication N/Z vicinity x county Rockbridge code 163 zip code 2290
3. State/Federal Agency Co	ertification
request for determination of eligibili Historic Places and meets the procedural ar	nal Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ity meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant national invation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying of	9/3/93 Date
Director, Virginia Departm State or Federal agency ar In my opinion, the property meets Register criteria. (See continuation s	_ does not meet the National
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
state or Federal agency and bureau	
. National Park Service C	ertification
, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):	
	Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC
OTHER: I-House

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE
roof METAL
walls STONE
other WOOD

7. Description

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register Listing) A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply a wound by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. B removed from its original location. C a birthplace or a grave. D a comstemy. E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. F a commemorative property. G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
Period of Significance1796-1900
Significant Dates _1796
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A
Cultural AffiliationN/A
Architect/Builder unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property or one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References
(ite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS) pretiminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Name of repository: Mackey family papers, Charles D. Williams

William Mackey House	Rockbridge County, Virginia
10. Geographical Data	:=====================================
Acreage of Property _214 acres_ UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a	continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting	
1 17 646410 4189320 2 17 645600	4188280
3 17 644780 4188800 4 17 645200	4188820
X See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundar: continuation sheet.)	ies of the property on a
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were sheet.)	e selected on a continuation
======================================	
name/titleCalder Loth, Senior Architectural Histo	orian
organization Va. Department of Historic Resources	date June 30, 1993

street & number_221 Governor Street______telephone___804-786-3143__

city or town Richmond state_VA_ zip code ____23219___

William Mackey House Rockbri	idge County, Virgin
Additional Documentation	:======================================
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the properties have or numerous resources.	
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the prope	erty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any addition	onal items)
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	

Personwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend

_____ state _VA zip code ___24435__

street & number Rt. 2 Box 122 telephone

name _____ Charles D. Williams, Sr._____

existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

city or town Fairfield

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Mackey, William, House Rockbridge County, Virginia

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The William Mackey house is a three-bay, two-story I house built of irregularly coursed limestone rubble. A date stone near the top of the west (end) wall, inscribed "W M/ 1796," indicates the construction date. The house is covered by a gable roof with interior end chimneys. The most striking exterior architectural detail is the bold cornice decorated with modillions and dentils. A circa 1900 one-story front porch shelters the first floor. A two-story frame addition of the same period projects from the rear. The house preserves most of its original interior woodwork including the stair, mantels, doors, window trim, and second-floor board partitions. Four contributing outbuildings in varying states of disrepair are immediately adjacent. About a hundred yards to the east of the house is a modern farm complex including two contributing outbuildings, a bank barn and granary, both erected around 1900. The house retains an unusually scenic rural setting, little changed since the late eighteenth century.

DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The William Mackey house is set in a secluded valley to the east of Timber Ridge, one of the oldest settlements in Rockbridge County. Although the property is hardly two miles from the interchange of I 95 and U.S. 11, the area remains remarkably pastoral, with no visual intrusions within sight of the house. The scenery is rolling pastures and wooded hills, with the Blue Ridge Mountains dominating the view to the east. Down the hill from the house is a large pond, fed by the spring which caused the farm to be established here in the mid-eighteenth century. The nominated property is the historic core of a 600-acre dairy farm. A complex of farm buildings, including a circa 1900 bank barn and granary is about a hundred yards to the east of the house.

The original portion of the house is constructed of irregularly coursed limestone rubble with roughly dressed corner stones and cut-stone segmental arches over the windows and doors. The arches over the first-floor facade openings are hidden by the front porch. Although there has been some repointing of the arches, most of the stone work is in good repair.

The house is covered by a gable roof of approximately 45 degree pitch. It was originally sheathed with wood shingles, the current roofing is standing-seam sheet metal. The raking boards have been extended on the gable ends to make deeper eaves, a change probably made in conjunction with the addition of the rear wing and front porch. The main cornice, one of the finest eighteenth-century cornices in the county, is an elegant composition of crown molding, fascia, scrolled modillions, dentils and bed moldings. Some of the moldings have been removed for repair. The rear cornice is partially hidden by the rear wing; the exposed portion east of the wing has lost most of the modillions and dentils.

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The circa 1900 front porch has a shed roof and plain square posts. The porch is reached by a set of poured concrete steps. The east end of the porch has a diagonal projecting gable with its own set of steps. The porch wraps around the east side of the house where it is enclosed by a board-and-batten partition sheltering a side entrance.

The windows and doors have handsome architrave trim. The architrave moldings are carved from single logs of walnut rather than built up from separate elements. The first-floor windows have nine-over-nine sashes while those above have six-over-six sashes. The second-floor sash is mostly new, copied from the original which was deteriorated. The rear center window was enlarged to a door to allow access to the second story of the wing. The original wooden window sills have been replaced with poured concrete sills following the form of the originals. Small attic windows are the only windows on the end walls. These do not have glass and apparently were not meant to have glass, only shutters. They currently are blocked with wood panels. The rest of the windows were originally hung with shutters but none remain. One set of early shutter hardware survives on the first floor rear western window which has been covered by a portion of the rear wing.

The house has an I house floor plan, although the room to the east of the center passage is larger than that opposite. This difference in room sizes is reflected in the spacing of the openings of the three-bay facade which has more wall area to the east of the center bay than to the west. The center passage is dominated by a simple but finely executed Georgian stair with turned newel and knob finial, and turned balusters, two to a tread. The stair brackets are undecorated. There is a paneled spandrel and a closet door beneath the landing. What was an original rear entrance has been modified for a doorway into the wing. The doorways to the adjacent rooms preserve their original architrave frames and six-paneled doors.

The focal point of the principal room--the east room--is a large fireplace with segmental stone arch. The impressive original mantel has an architrave frame, plain frieze, and narrow cornice. The room preserves its simple baseboard and chair rail. There is no cornice. To the south of the mantel is an original doorway leading to the outside (now the enclosed portion of the porch). The pine floor boards in this and the other first-floor rooms replace the originals which were damaged by insects.

The room to the west of the passage has a similar but smaller arched fireplace. The mantel also has an architrave frame but its frieze is divided into three panels. The architrave frame is repeated above the frieze and there is a later board shelf. The room also has a simple baseboard and chair rail. The plaster ceiling has been removed to expose the floor joists above.

The second-floor rooms have plainer baseboards and chair rails. The fireplace openings are framed by architrave moldings and are considerably smaller than those below. The pine floors

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Mackey, William, House Rockbridge County, Virginia

on the second floor are original. The second-floor windows and doors are framed by simple architrave trim. An interesting feature in the east room is the secret drawer under the window sill of the front window. The second-floor passage is partitioned off at the front to make a small room over the entrance. All the interior partitions on the second floors are of wide, hand-planed vertical boards.

The attic is reached by a steep enclosed stair. The attic framing consists of common rafters with collar beams. What appear to be original sheathing boards are intact. Wide pine boards make up the attic flooring.

The interior of the four-room, circa 1900 two-story rear wing is unremarkable, containing relatively plain commercially manufactured trim of the period.

The house has been unoccupied since the 1960s. The current owner has undertaken a long-term rehabilitation. Most of the later alterations and additions will likely be retained.

The property has four contributing outbuildings and two contributing farm buildings. To the west of the dwelling is a circa 1900 spring house—a weatherboarded building with a projecting gable roof and lattice ventilation frieze. To the north of the spring house is a wash house of undetermined age. Its brick chimney appears to be mid-nineteenth century, but the wooden building may be later. The weatherboards have been removed to repair the framing. To the northeast of the house is a roofless, deteriorated log smokehouse. The logs have V-notching. The smokehouse may be contemporary with the house, or may be older. Farther east is a ruinous log woodshed with a shed roof. The date of the building is unknown; it may be a late nineteenth-century building built of salvaged logs.

About a hundred yards to the east of the house is a complex of farm buildings containing two contributing buildings. These are a granary and a wooden bank barn, both erected around 1900. The granary is typical for the period, having an A-frame roof, weatherboard sheathing, and wagon sheds beneath the roof overhangs. The bank barn has a gable roof, vertical board siding, and a forebay on the south side. On the north side of the barn are two silos.

The nominated property also has nine noncontributing buildings. These include four buildings in the farm complex: two calf barns erected in 1992, a three-section dairy erected in 1980, and a machine shed erected in 1992.

Down the hill to the south of the house is a complex of four non-contributing buildings. These include the present owner's current residence, a plain wooden dwelling erected around 1910. This two-story structure has a gable roof, a plain front porch, and a rear ell. Adjacent to the

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				Rockbridge County, Virginia

house is a 1980 guest house built of earlier logs, a modern utility building, and a garage. Over the hill, out of site of the stone house is a 1930s hay barn.

Although no archaeological survey has been undertaken around the Mackey house, the property likely contains numerous archaeological sites, some probably dating from the mideighteenth century. Potential sites would include that of the original dwelling, associated outbuildings for both the original and the present house, and farm buildings dating from both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Also there may be evidence of the stockade John Mackey erected in the mid-eighteenth century to protect his spring.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Mackey house illustrates the transition from rude frontier structures to solid, permanent dwellings with architectural pretension that took place in the Shenandoah Valley in the late eighteenth century. Compared with its simple log predecessors, the Mackey house is a stately stone structure with finely crafted classical detailing. Except for a front porch and a rear wing, both added around 1900, the house survives without significant alteration, preserving nearly all of its original interior woodwork. The house was erected in 1796 for William Mackey, son of the Scottish immigrant and Rockbridge County pioneer, John Mackey. The property remains in the ownership of William Mackey's descendants, and is one of the oldest family holdings in the region.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

John Mackey was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, around 1709 and later moved to Ulster. According to family tradition, Mackey immigrated to America in 1726. By 1747 he, along with numerous Scotch-Irish pioneers, had moved up the Shenandoah Valley and settled in what was to become Rockbridge County,¹ where he purchased 390 acres from Benjamin Borden for nineteen pounds.² The property did not wholly suit Mackey so in 1756 he purchased from William Corouthers, for one hundred fifteen pounds, a second tract of 361 acres in the vicinity of Timber Ridge.³ There Mackey established the farm that continues to be operated by his descendants today. The eastern side of Timber Ridge,³ with its fertile rolling ground watered by several natural springs, was attractive for settlement. Family tradition holds that the Mackeys lived in a log house that stood approximately seventy-five yards southeast of the present house. It is also said that Mackey built a stockade around the principal spring to protect his water supply from Indians.

Mackey's estate appraisal indicates a wide range of agricultural activities as it lists cattle, sheep, lambs, spinning equipment for both wool and flax, a cider mill, a still, and several slaves. At Mackey's death in 1773 the Borden tract property went to his son Henry, and the Timber Ridge farm passed to his son William with a provision for his widow, Mary Porter Mackey, to remain indefinitely with William. Mother and son continued to run the farm successfully. In 1785 Mary Mackey married Joseph Little. The couple made a prenuptial agreement that removed each from any interest in a possible death benefit from the death of the other, thus assuring that Little would have no claim on any part of the Mackey property. Joseph Little died in 1787.

In the early 1790s, William Mackey decided he should marry and began construction of the present stone dwelling to house his family-to-be. The Mackey family papers preserve many of the receipts dated 1796 for building materials including many for nails and window lights. The

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house was completed in 1796 as attested by both the receipts and the gable date stone inscribed "WM/1796." The following year William Mackey married Elizabeth Kennedy. Whether or not Mackey's widowed mother lived with him in his new house, or in an older dwelling on the farm, is uncertain. In any case, she apparently continued to be prosperous in her own right and actively involved in the farming operations. At her death in 1816 she was in possession of cattle, horses, furniture, and eight slaves.

The Mackey farm eventually passed to William Mackey's son Samuel. At Samuel's death, several of his children continued to reside on at Timber Ridge. Samuel's son Henry seems to have acted as head of the family. During the Civil War, while Henry Mackey was off fighting for the Confederacy, the farm fell on hard time. It continued in a neglected state for a number of years following the war. In 1892 a family dispute over ownership erupted and was finally settled with Henry Mackey's son Charlie acquiring title to the portion of the farm containing the family homestead. Through the diligence and hard work of both Charlie Mackey and his wife, the farm flourished once again. Evidence of this new period of prosperity is found in the several improvements remaining from the early twentieth century including the two-story addition on the rear of the house, the front porch, the spring house, the large bank barn, and the granary.⁸

The Mackey house survives as an outstanding and rare example of eighteenth-century, middle-Shenandoah Valley stone architecture. Except for a handful of stone meetinghouses, most of the earliest buildings in region were of log construction, and most of these have disappeared. The second generation of buildings, those erected after the Revolution, were frequently stone. Stone construction was a strong building tradition among both the German and Scotch-Irish settlers. The blue-gray native limestone was easily quarried, easily worked, and in plentiful supply. Despite the many attractive qualities of limestone, brick and frame soon became the dominant building materials. Stone construction passed out of favor almost completely by the second decade of the nineteenth century.

The Mackey house gains added interest by surviving relatively unchanged. Its exterior preserves a fine modillion cornice as well as classically proportioned window and door architraves--the latter executed with solid walnut members rather than built up as a series of moldings. The interior retains original architrave mantels, board partitions, and a simple but refined stair railing. With these details, as well as the symmetrical three-bay facade, the Mackey house illustrates a blending of academic classical design with traditional vernacular building practices. The limestone rubble was common for many types of vernacular structures while the wooden details were likely influenced by English architectural patternbooks.

Enhancing the Mackey house as an image of eighteenth-century rural life is its unspoiled pastoral setting. The house is nestled in a secluded valley with panoramic views of the

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surrounding pastures, wooded slopes, and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east--a scene little changed over the past two centuries.

ENDNOTES

- 1. Rockbridge County was formed from Augusta and Botetourt counties in 1778.
- 2. Office of the Clerk of Court, Augusta County, Virginia (Deed book 1, page 267).
- 3. Office of the Clerk of court, Augusta County, Virginia (Deed book 7, page 280.)
- 4. Office of the Clerk of Court, Augusta County, Virginia (Will book 5, page 200.)
- 5. Mackey Family Papers (In possession of Charles Williams).
- 6. George West Diehl, The Brick Church on Timber Ridge (Verona, VA: McClure printing under contract from Charles and Joanna Zink, 1985), page 193.

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- 7. Office of the Clerk of Court, Rockbridge County, Virginia (Will Book 4, page 31).
- 8. Information on this period is from a conversation with Charles Williams, the present owner, June 9, 1993.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Primary Sources

Augusta County Deed Books 1 and 7, Augusta County Clerk's Office, Staunton, VA.

Augusta County Will Book 5, Augusta County Clerk's Office, Staunton, VA.

Mackey Family Papers. In possession of Charles Williams of Fairfield, VA.

Rockbridge County Will Book 4, Rockbridge County Clerk's Office, Lexington, VA.

Secondary Sources

Chalkley, Lyman. Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989. Reprint.

Diehl, George W. The Brick Church on Timber Ridge. Verona, Virginia: McClure Printing Co., 1975.

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Mackey, William, House Rockbridge County, Virginia

UTM REFERENCES:

E: 17 645500 4189340

F: 17 645560 4189300

G: 17 645760 4189580

H: 17 645960 4189700

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point delineated by UTM reference A: 17 646410 4189320, proceed southwest some 4400 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference B: 17 645600 4188280, thence northwest some 3200 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference C: 17 644780 4188800, thence eastnortheast some 1400 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference D: 17 645200 4188820, thence northeast some 1800 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference E: 17 645500 4189340, thence southeast some 200 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference F: 17 645560 4189300, thence northeast some 1000 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference G: 17 645760 4189580, thence northeast some 900 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference H: 17 645960 4189700, thence southeast some 2000 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 214 acres included in the William Mackey house nomination incorporate the major portion of the original 361-acre tract purchased by John Mackey in 1756. The 177 acres of this tract have been owned continuously by descendants of John Mackey to the present day. Two additional tracts that were part of the original holding and that were acquired by the present owner are included. The 214 acres preserves a rural setting for the 1796 house and protects the principal viewsheds. It is also likely to include any archaeological sites associated with the Mackey family.

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Section Map Page _11_ Mackey, William, House Rockbridge County, Virginia



